



HOUSE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

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Statement by House Democratic Leader Perry Thurston On Florida House Proposed General Appropriations Act

Thurston: House Budget Fails to Meet Florida's Health Care Needs

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Florida House Democratic Leader Perry Thurston (D-Fort Lauderdale) today released the following statement regarding the budget proposed today by House Republican leadership:

“On behalf of the members of the House Democratic Caucus, I want to thank House Speaker Will Weatherford, House Appropriations Committee Chairman Seth McKeel and other colleagues for working with us on aspects of the proposed state budget. We look forward to continuing a productive bipartisan dialogue and a thorough review of the budget.

“Improved economic conditions under President Obama’s leadership is making possible a budget surplus that provides opportunity this year to make investments in Florida’s future.

“While increases in education funding, restoration of prior-year university system cuts, and pay increases for hard-working state employees and school teachers are important goals that we hope Florida’s new budget will achieve, there also is a crisis of uninsured Floridians that demands legislative attention this session.

“House Democratic Caucus members believe that an expansion of health coverage is affordable and achievable. As budget talks continue, I believe it is imperative that Republican leaders respond with action and available funding as directed by the nation’s Affordable Care Act. The House

proposed budget fails to provide for the full implementation of the health care law. I expect that the Florida Senate will take a better approach in its proposed budget as it concerns the health care needs of Florida's families.

"I find it highly doubtful that House Democratic Caucus members will support a state budget that fails to adequately address Florida's health care needs. I urge House Republican leaders to continue working toward a better spending plan for Florida."

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